(b) if so, what measures Government propose to adopt to curb this malpractice.

(c) whether it is a fact that between November 7 and December 14, 1986, 134 persons involved in black marketing of railway tickets were caught; and

(d) if so, what kind of punishment was given to these persons ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. With the introduction of computerisation and frequent surprise checks by the Anti Fraud and Vigilance squads, the activities of touts and unauthorised travel agents have been greatly curbed. Surprise checks are conducted in Reservation Complexes and to door to door verification of the reservations done to check reservation on fake names.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. 31 persons, involved in black marketing of railway tickets were apprehended during this period and prosecuted under the extent provisions of the Indian Railways Act. Apart from this, 113 persons were apprehended travelling on transferred reservations during the same period from whom an amount of Rs. 13,558/- was realised besides confiscation of their tickets.

Availabiilty of Beds in Chandigarh Hospitals

995. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of beds available in general wards and private wards respectively, in the hospitals at Chandigarh;

(b) what is the actual requirement of beds at present and that expected by the year 1990;

(c) whether any action is being taken by Government to meet the rising needs of the region; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Financial assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals in the fitld of performing arts

996. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to give financial assistance to professional groups and individuals engaged in specified art projects in the field of performing arts;

(b) if so, what are the details of the groups to whom the assistance would be given; and

(c) what is the amount of assistance proposed to be given, in each case, and on what basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such assistance will be given to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, solo artists and all genres of performing arts activities.

(c) Assistance is given in the form of grant/subsidy to the approved projects or programmes. The selection is made by an Expert Advisory Committee which scrutinise all the proposals received under this scheme. The maximum grant/subsidy permissible under this scheme is Rs. 40,000/- in a year.

Purchase of Soviet Aircraft

997. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase Soviet aircraft to augment its commercial fleet, in and outside the country; and